

# Unit 3 Chapter 8

Trans regional Trade Increases

Time Period: 600-1450

# Unit III: 600-1450



This time period witnessed tremendous growth in long-distance trade through the Silk Road, the Indian Ocean, Trans-Saharan trade, and the Mediterranean Sea. During the period of the Pax Mongolia, when peace and order was established due to the vast Mongol Empire, trade and interaction were at their height.

## Unit 3: 600-1450 CE

- Larger empires than in the Classical era
  - Some reconstructions or continuations of older empires
  - Some major empires were created by **pastoral**, nomadic conquerors
- Increasing interregional trade and interactions
  - “Direct contact and diffusion

# Trade Intensifies in Post-Classical Era

- Travel technology improved

- Stirrups
- Compass
- Astrolabes
- Dhows (ships)
  - Carry larger cargo



- Financing improved
  - Standardized currency
  - Formal Credit
- Empires boomed

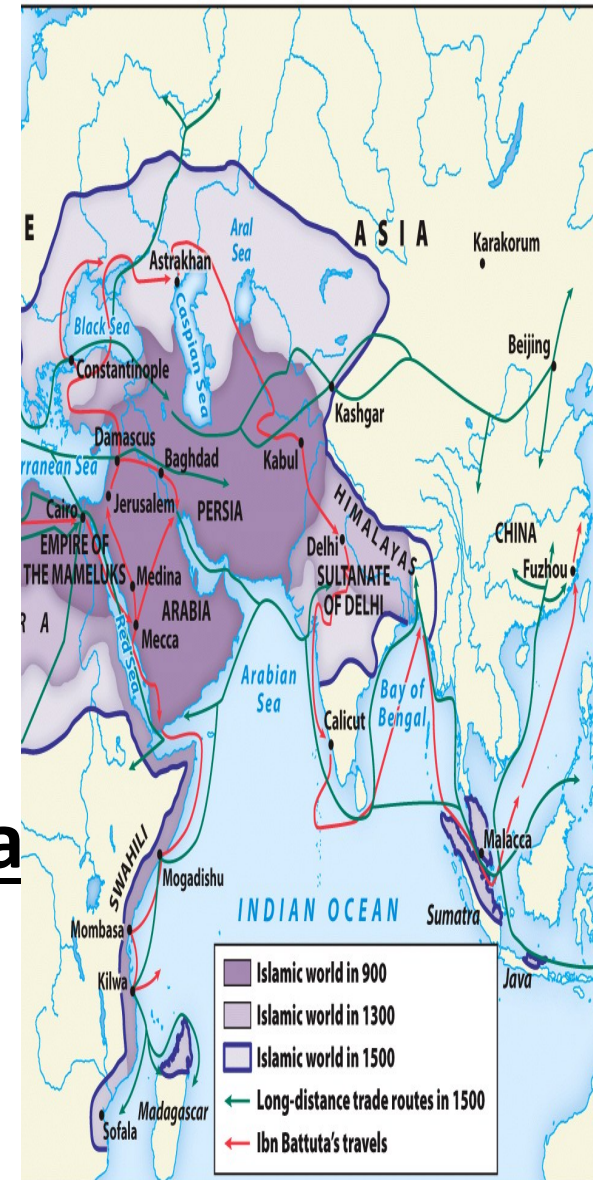


A Dhow ship near Zanzibar off the Swahili Coast



# Impact of Trade

- Economic
- Diffusion of religions:  
Christianity and Buddhism on Silk Roads
  - and Islam (in the 700s)
- Islam – Sub-Saharan
- Facilitated the transmission of disease



# Silk Road Trade Network







- Links Outer and Inner Eurasia
  - Linked China and the Roman Empire
    - The two extreme ends of Eurasia

# Taklamakan Desert:

## “The Desert of Death”



The Silk Roads avoided the Taklamakan Desert and passed through the oasis towns on its outskirts



# Organization of Long-distance Trade

- Not one long road – mostly land-based (but does have water routes)
- Relay Trade
- One of the world's most extensive and sustained networks of exchange
- Caravans



# Silk Roads

- Environmental conditions were harsh
- Lightweight items
- Had to travel in Caravans





# Silk Road

## • Caravans





Most of the goods were luxury products destined for an elite and wealthy market rather than staple goods. Of course, silk came to symbolize this exchange system. PURPLE







Chinese porcelain of the Song Dynasty.



## The Steps in Chinese Silk Production



One Chinese secret to fine silk was the diet of the silk worms. The silk strands were much stronger if the worms were fed a diet of mulberry leaves. It also allowed for lighter colored silk that could be dyed many colors.



"Nests" specifically created for the worms to create their cocoons. The life cycle of a silk worm is one year, and the Chinese found that cocoons harvested in the Spring were of higher quality.



Another Chinese practice was to steam the cocoon. This killed the pupa inside and gently loosened the silk strands so it would unravel easily and produce superior silk. Half of the cocoons were steamed for silk and the other half was allowed to hatch to produce worms for the following year.





Because the pupa was killed before it could begin to hatch from the cocoon, Chinese silk was stronger and easier to load into a loom. A single cocoon could have up to one mile of silk but several stands were combined to make each thread.



The finished product could be sold as raw silk textiles or dyed into beautiful material or garments. Silk was a luxury item that was in high demand for those who could afford it.

# Economic Impact of Silk Roads

- The trade affected the lives of ordinary farmers
  - A few decided to give up growing food crops and they produced items that were destined for the silk road.
- Merchants made a huge profit
- Overall the Silk Roads focus on luxury goods made it hard for it to impact most people and the overall economy.

# Central Asian “Heavenly Horses” – Bred by Nomadic Pastoralists





# The Silk Road

- The Chinese traded their silk with the Indians for precious stones and metals such as jade, gold, and silver, and the Indians would trade the silk with the Roman Empire
- Buddhism spread from India to China along the route



# Exports from Regions Along the Silk Road

REGION	PRODUCTS CONTRIBUTED TO SILK ROAD COMMERCE
China	<b>silk</b> , bamboo, mirrors, <b>gunpowder</b> , <b>paper</b> , rhubarb, ginger, lacquerware
Siberia and Central Asia	<b>furs</b> , walrus tusks, amber, <b>horses</b> , copper vessels, saddles, slaves
India	<b>cotton</b> , <b>spices</b>
Middle East	dates, nuts, almonds, dried fruit, dyes, lapis lazuli, swords
Mediterranean basin	<b>gold</b> coins, glassware, glazes, grapevines, jewelry, artworks, perfume, wool and linen textiles, <b>olive oil</b>

- **China**: silk, bamboo, mirrors, gunpowder, paper, rhubarb, ginger lacquerware, chrysanthemums  
**Forest lands of Siberia and grasslands of Central Asia**: furs, walrus tusks, amber, livestock, horses, falcons, hides, copper vessels, tents, saddles, slaves  
**India**: cotton textiles, herbal medicine, precious stones, spices  
**Middle East**: dates, nuts, almonds, dried fruit, dyes, lapis lazuli, swords  
**Mediterranean basin**: gold coins, glassware, glazes, grapevines, jewellery, artworks, perfume, wool and linen textiles, olive oil

## **Sea Road**

### **Economic Exchange in the Indian Ocean Basin**

**Mediterranean basin**: ceramics, glassware, wine, gold olive oil

**East Africa**: ivory, gold, iron goods, slaves, tortoiseshells, quartz, leopard skins

**Arabia**: frankincense, myrrh, perfumes

**India**: grain, ivory, precious stones, cotton textiles, spices, timber, tortoiseshells

**Southeast Asia**: tin, sandalwood, cloves, nutmeg, mace

**China**: silks, porcelain, tea



# Silk Road

- Facilitated the spread of technology and materials, such as:
  - Silk
  - Paper
  - Gunpowder
  - Saddles and stirrups



1300s Silk Workshop in Italy

# Importance of the Silk Road


Empires expand their wealth

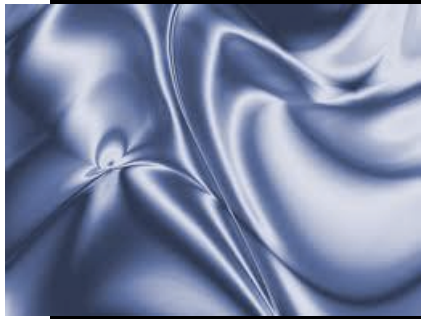
- Han Dynasty prospers by controlling silk trade
- All kingdoms require merchants to pay a tax to trade in their lands
- Improved transportation
- Building of new roads, bridges, ports, canals

## CULTURAL DIFFUSION

- People exposed to new ideas, cultures, beliefs, and people



A small side canal branching off from the Grand Canal near  Suzhou, China.



# The Silk Road

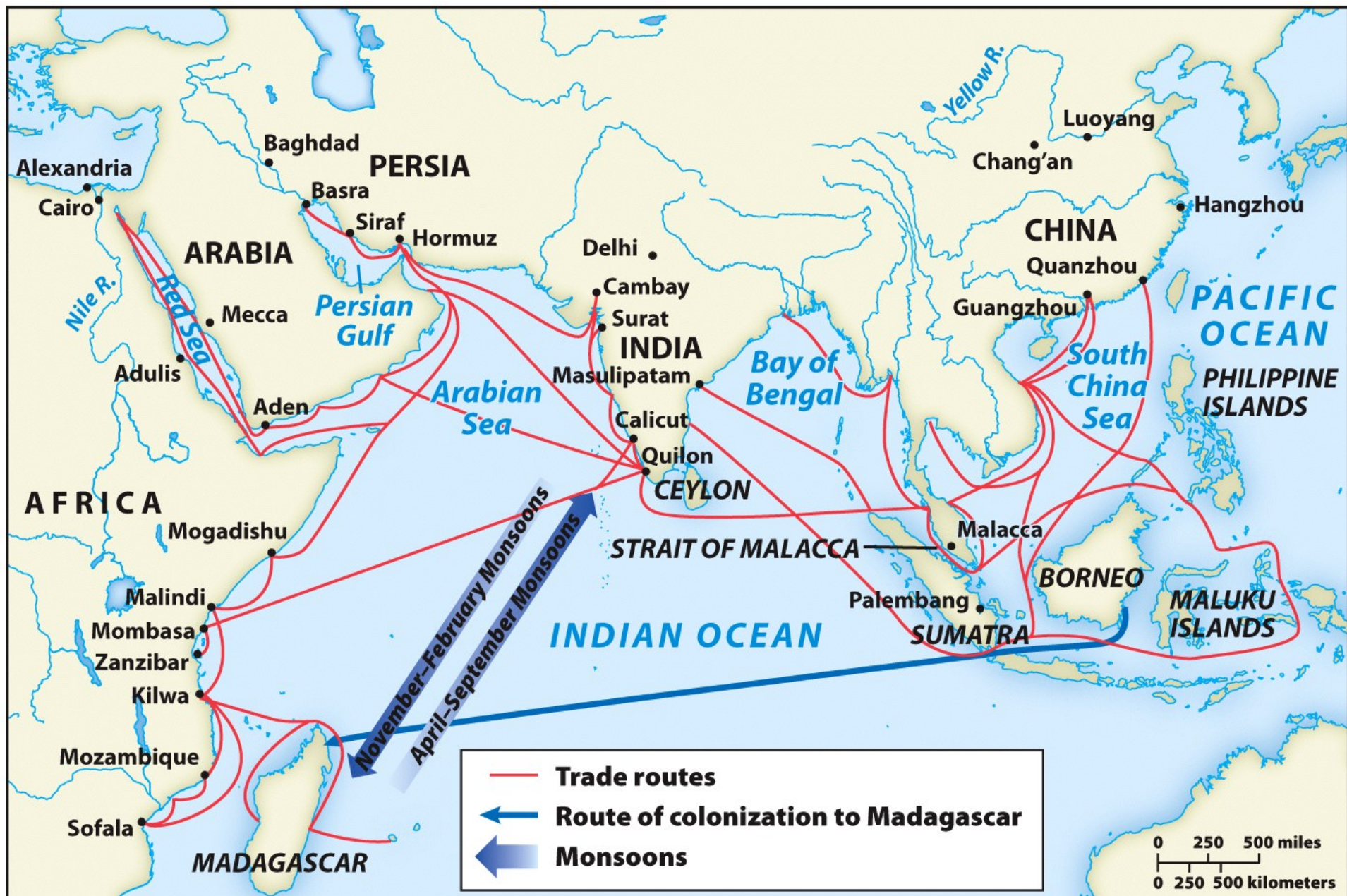


- Other items traded on the Silk Road
  - From East Asia to the west
    - Horses, spices, furs, ivory, perfumes, lacquered boxes and furniture, rice, wool, tea, porcelain
  - From South Asia to east and west
    - Cotton, spices, sandalwood, rice



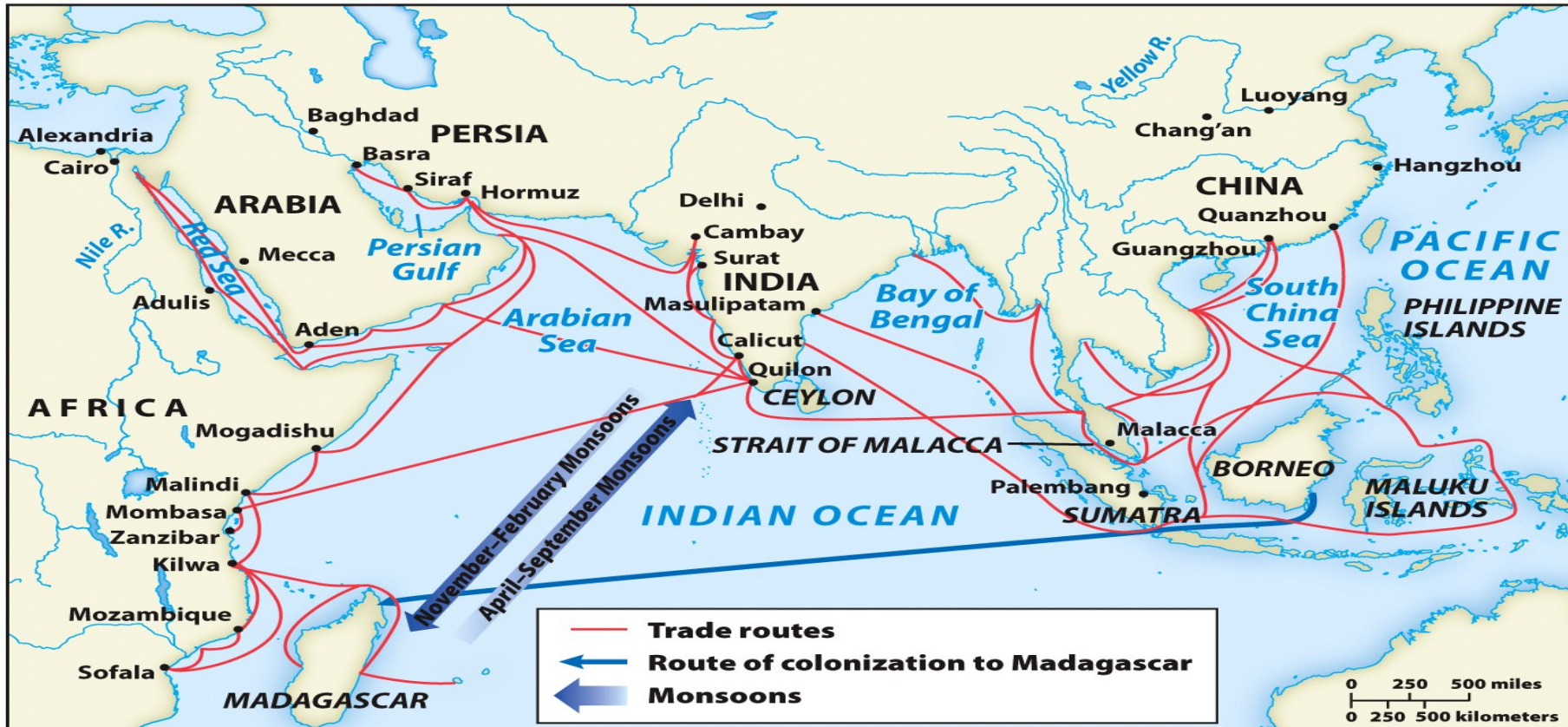


# Indian Ocean Trade Network



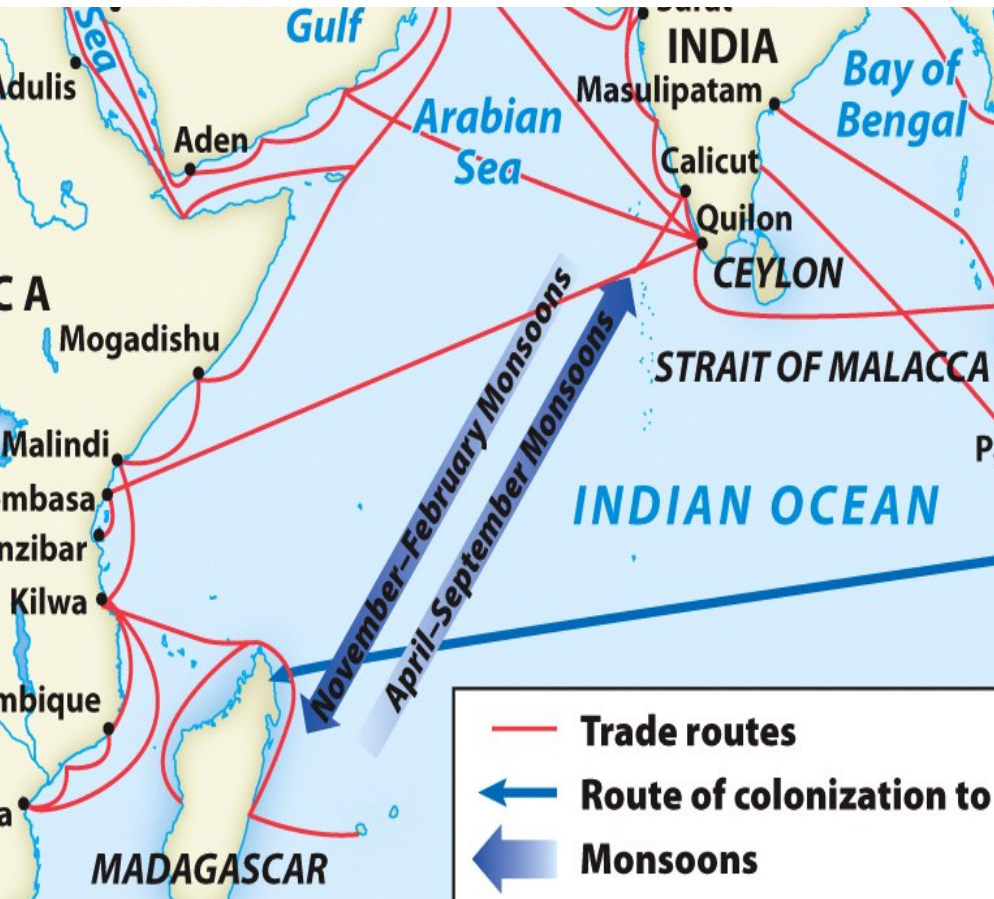


# Indian Ocean Trade



- Largest sea-based system of communication and exchange
  - China to eastern Africa

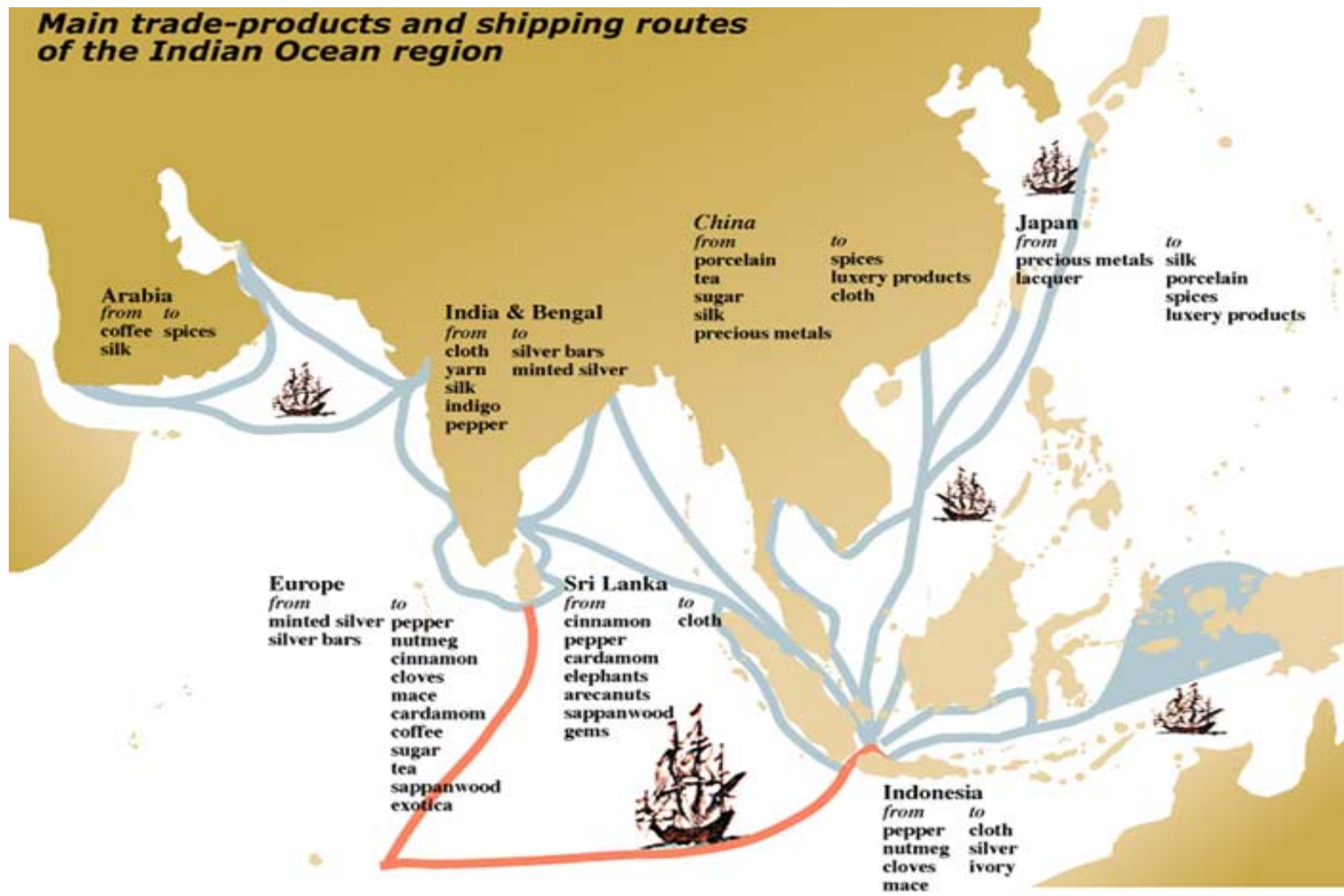
# Indian Ocean



- Predictable **monsoon** winds facilitated trade



Indian Ocean trade operated across an “archipelago of towns” whose merchants had more in common with one another than with the people of their own hinterland.



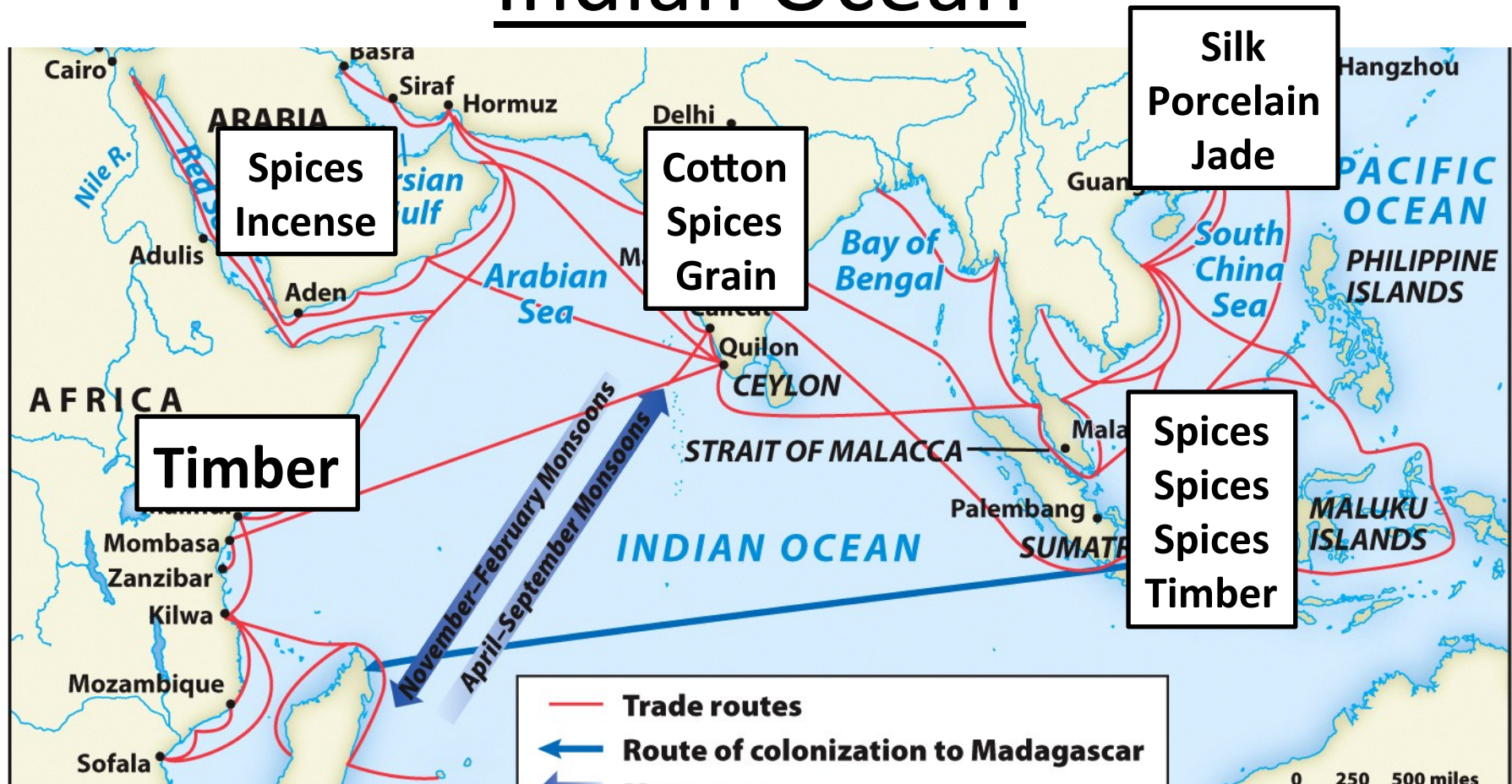
# Indian Ocean

- **Sailing technology**
  - **Lateen** sails
  - **Stern-post rudder**
  - **Magnetic Compass**
  - **Astrolabe**



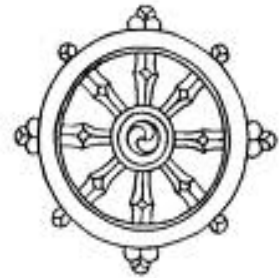
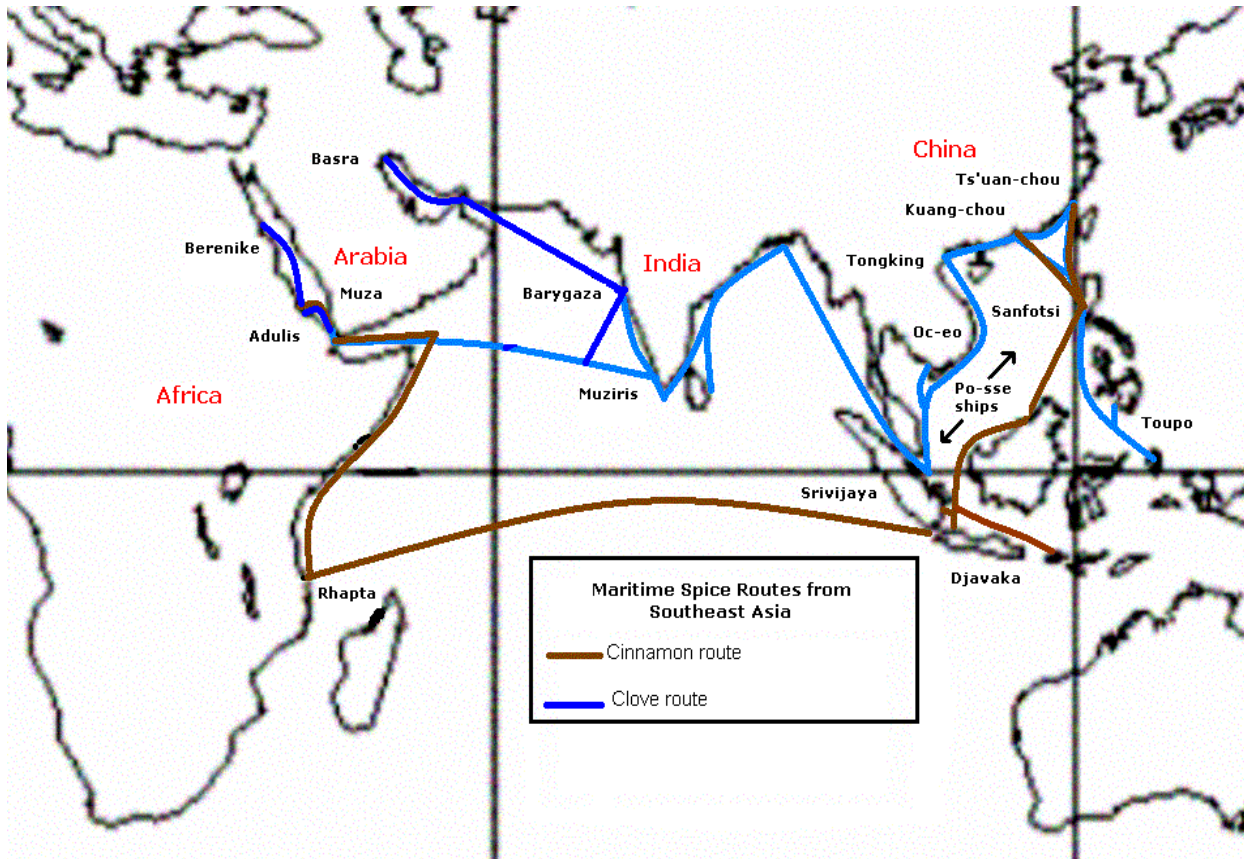


# Indian Ocean



- Transportation costs were lower
- Larger cargo – more goods for mass markets
  - (Silk Roads = luxury goods)

Oceanic commerce had a significant impact on Southeast Asia and East Africa, especially the introduction of Hindu, Buddhist, or Islamic beliefs.





# Indian Ocean



Map 9.1 Tang and Song Dynasty China  
Chapter 9, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition  
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Page 381

- Trade stimulated political change as wealth was derived from commerce in Southeast Asian ports
- Parts of SE Asia became heavily **Hindu** or **Buddhist** during the Classical Era, then **Islamic** after 600 CE

# Borobudur, Indonesia



The Sailendra kingdom in central Java, an agriculturally rich region, mounted a massive building program between the eighth and tenth centuries featuring Hindu temples and Buddhist monuments (most famous, known as Borobudur, is the largest Buddhist monument in the world)

Islam later comes to the region – Now Indonesia has largest concentration of Muslims in world





East African city states  
More extensive after rise  
of Islam

– Culturally separate from  
inland Africa

- Islamic influence

- Voluntarily and widely  
adopted

- Swahili language written in  
Arabic

Ibn Battuta, the famous Muslim traveler, visited East Africa and West Africa and found many Muslims societies.



- Traded items included
- Silk, cotton, rice, spices, horses, ivory, gold, porcelain and people



# Trans-Saharan Trade

- “Gold Road”



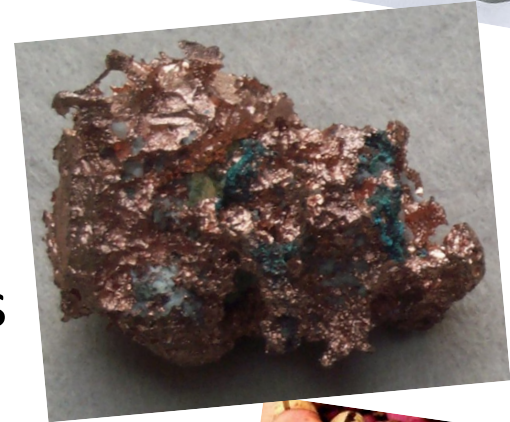




Trans-Saharan Trade Routes: Ancient trade routes connected sub-Saharan West Africa to the Mediterranean coast. Among the commodities carried southward were silk, cotton, horses, and salt. Among those carried northward were gold, ivory, pepper, and slaves.

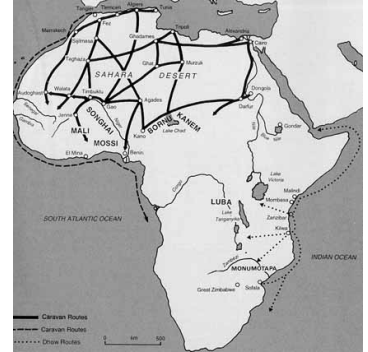
# Trans-Saharan Trade

- Like the Silk and Sea Roads → this trade begins as a result of environmental variation
- What does each region have to offer?
  - North African coastal areas = cloth, glassware, weapons, books
  - Sahara region = copper and salt
  - Savanna grasslands = grain crops
  - Sub-Saharan forests = tree crops like yam and kola nuts





# West Africa



- Trans-African trade connected North Africa and West Africa, part of sub-Saharan Africa
- Especially important salt for gold trade
- Introduction of camel led to initiation of trans-Saharan commerce by 300 to 400 CE
- Islam entered West Africa along trade routes
- Sahara was no longer a barrier
- The West African kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhai emerged
- Sale of slaves from non-Islamic and stateless societies farther south

# Ghana becomes “Land of Gold”



domesticated the camel



# Mali and Mansa Musa

- Timbuktu- Major trade city and center for culture and learning
- Gold and Salt Trade



Mosque in Timbuktu (in Mali)



- Muslim leader – went on hajj





A camel caravan crosses the western Sahara enroute to Timbuktu with blocks of salt mined at Taodeni, 350 miles to the north

# Developments (Trade)

- nomadic people settled at frequent stopping points to offer services to merchants
- led to the development of fortified inns for weary travelers (**Caravanserais**)
- With the expansion of luxury goods, caravanserais developed into large thriving centers which owed their very existence to caravan traffic.



A caravanserai in Iran.

- **Camel Saddle**
- *Camel was useless for trade without a saddle. (The humps on a camel's back are soft and non-supportive; one cannot simply throw packs of goods across its back.)*
- The "frame and mattress" saddle, (probably developed by Arabs) **distributed the weight of the cargo evenly across the camel's back** allowing a single camel to carry 500 to 1000 pounds of goods
- Greatly increased the volume of luxury goods moving across Eurasia.



A caravan making use of camel saddles.

N. Africa, gold, salt trade, Muslim, built larger and more cities. Most important SLAVE TRADERS with Europe

- trans-Saharan trade routes. Gold, kola nuts, and slaves were sent north in exchange for cloth, utensils, and salt.







# What Promoted Expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade?

## Inter-Regional Trade of Luxury Goods between Africans and Arabs



### Primary Trade Goods from the Sudanic Region

- Salt
- Ivory
- Gold
- Slaves

### Primary Trade Goods from Ethiopia

- Ebony
- Gold
- Coffee Beans
- Iron



### Primary Trade Goods From North Africa

- Colored Dye
- Leather
- Camels
- Wheat & Barley





# What Promoted the Expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade?

## Inter-Regional Trade of Luxury Goods between Arabs, Africans and Indians



### Primary Trade Goods from India

- Dye (Indigo)
- Cotton
- Tea
- Spices & Herbs

### Primary Trade Goods from the Swahili City-States

- Gold
- Ivory
- Sandlewood
- Copper
- Slaves

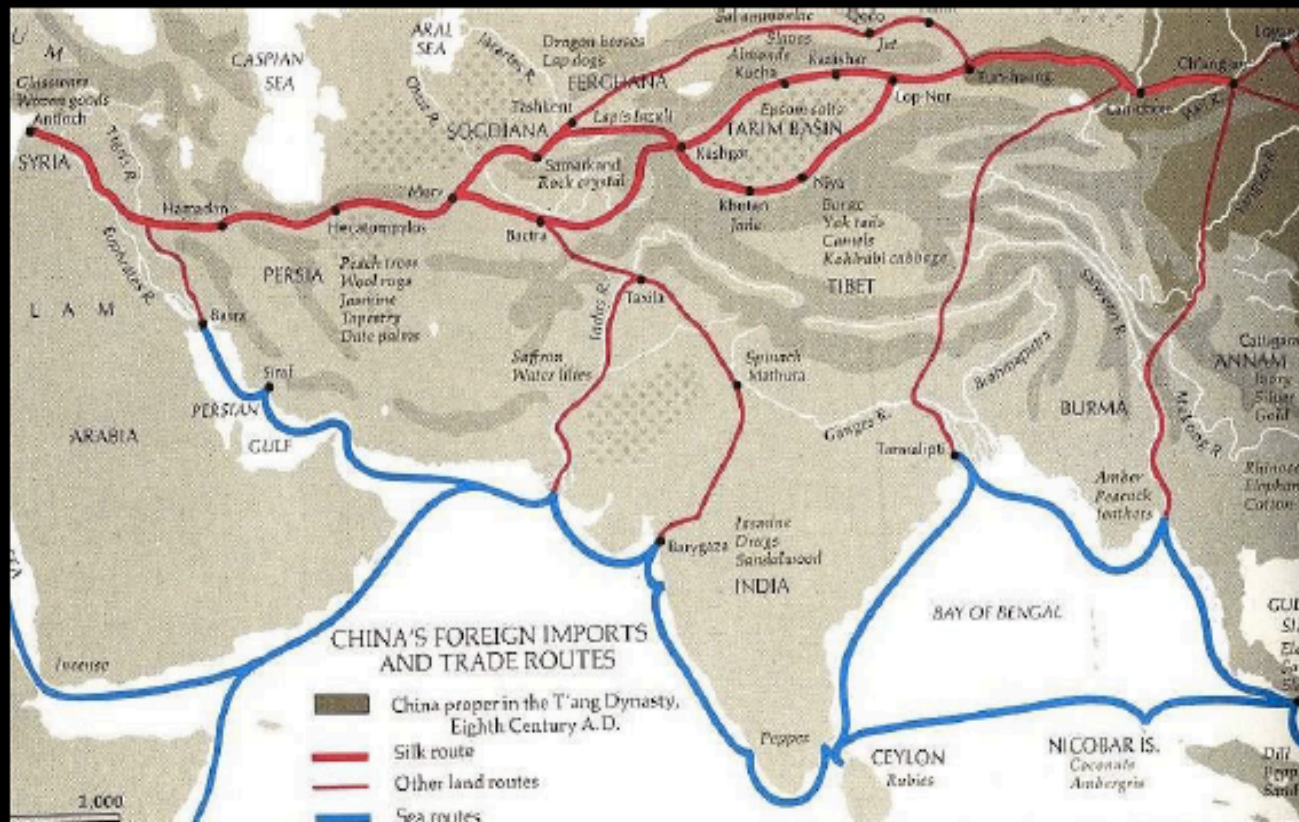


### Primary Trade Goods from Arabia & Persia

- Wool
- Muslin fabric
- Wheat & Barley
- Frankensence & Myrrh







## What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road ?

- Development of Trade Caravans and Maritime Shipping linked East & West
- Development and Expansion of Important Trade Centers (Land & Sea)
- Spread of Buddhist, Nestorian and Islamic Faiths by Pilgrims and Traders
- Expansion of Existing Empires (Dar al-Islam, Tang Dynasty and the Mongols)
- Trans-Regional Trade in Luxury Goods between Arabs, Indians & Chinese

# What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road ?

## Trans-Regional Trade in Luxury Goods between Arabs, Indians & Chinese



### Primary Trade Goods from China

- Silk
- Jade
- Rice
- Pearls
- Porcelain
- Tea



### Primary Trade Goods from India

- Herbs and Spices
- Cotton
- Dye



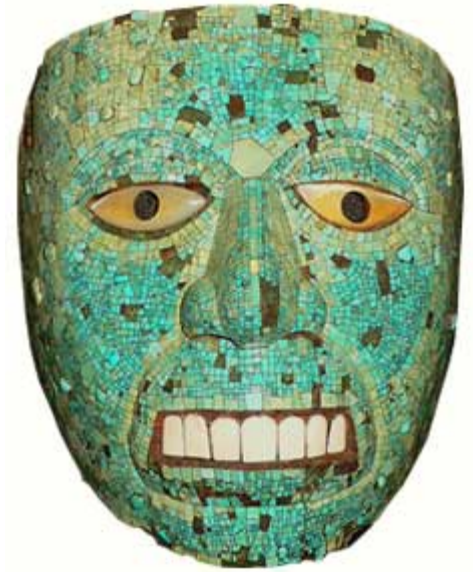
### Primary Trade Goods from Persia

- Carpets
- Muslin
- Horses



# Mesoamerican Trade

- The Mayan and other Mesoamerican civilizations started an extensive network of trade known as the Turquoise Road
  - Named after the lucrative trade commodity
  - Sometimes referred to as the Scarlet Macaw after the colorful bird of the region
- Trade would eventually extend from the Yucatan to the Anasazi of modern SW United States





# TRADE ROUTES AND GREAT EMPIRES OF THE FIRST CENTURY A.D.





